

Attorney Docket No.: F7752(V)
Serial No.: 10/583,421
Filing Date: June 19, 2006
Confirmation No.: 1710

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.(Currently amended): Edible barrier suitable for use in food products, comprising a covalently cross-linked biopolymer selected from the group consisting of sugar beet pectin having chemically attached feruoylated glycerides, chitosan having covalently coupled vanillin groups, and chitosan having covalently coupled vanillin groups and chemically attached feruoylated glycerides; and a lipid material, said edible barrier having a thickness of about 2 to 1,500 micrometer wherein said lipid material is an edible oil, fat or wax.

Claim 2 - 5 (Canceled)

Claim 6 (Previously presented): Barrier according to claim 1, having a thickness of about 10 to 500 micrometer.

Claim 7 (Original): Barrier according to claim 6, having a thickness of about 50 to 200 micrometer.

Claim 8 – 10 (Canceled)

Claim 11 (Withdrawn): Composite food product comprising parts having different water activities (aw), separated by the barrier according to claim 1.

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Claim 12 (Withdrawn): Food product comprising an edible barrier according to claim 1, covering a food ingredient selected from the group consisting of vegetables, fruit, bread, and fish.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn): Process for the preparation of a food product, wherein parts having different water activities (aw), are separated by the barrier according to claim 1.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn): Process according to claim 13, wherein the oxidation is carried out by an enzyme or enzymatic system.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn): Process according to claim 14, this enzyme system is already present in situ, e.g. tomato peroxidase in tomatoes.

Claim 16 (New): Barrier according to claim 1 wherein the covalently cross-linked biopolymer is chitosan having covalently coupled vanillin groups, or chitosan having covalently coupled vanillin groups and chemically attached feruoylated glycerides.

Claim 17 (New): Barrier according to claim 1 wherein the chitosan having covalently coupled vanillin groups has a weight ratio of chitosan to vanillan of 2:1 to 50:1.

Claim 18 (New): Barrier according to claim 17 wherein the chitosan having covalently coupled vanillin groups has a weight ratio of chitosan to vanillan of 2:1 to 50:1.